



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

September 2009

December 2009

Release Date

8 September 2009

11 December 2009

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

What's New



WHAT'S NEW

PLANNING FOR THE 2011 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING IN TASMANIA

The five-yearly Population Census is a huge logistical undertaking with many challenges such as:

- counting vulnerable groups accurately (homeless, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and migrants),
- overcoming physical barriers (secure apartment buildings, remote areas and isolated dwellings), and
- finding the resources to support operations (recruitment of census collectors, access to meeting rooms for public awareness presentations and training).

A key aspect of the ABS 2011 Census planning is the Census Engagement Strategy, which aims to increase support for the Census across the community to achieve the best possible count. Over the coming year, ABS staff will be visiting various parts of Tasmania to gather local intelligence and share ideas for addressing challenges in field collection. We will be seeking opportunities to work with organisations and community groups to progress this strategy.

In addition, a small team from the ABS Office in Tasmania will be examining state geography as part of the design of Census collector workloads from late-2009. This team may be in contact with various government agency planning areas, real estate companies, property developers and other holders of information to discuss recent building approvals, land developments and other impacts on dwelling counts.

Census data play a central role in determining funding allocations to local governments and is an important resource for planning carried out by governments, organisations and individuals. ABS contact with local representatives in Tasmania will help produce statistics that are accurate and paint a clear picture of communities.

For further information contact Libby O'Toole on (03) 6222 5853 or email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au, or check out our [2011 Census of Population and Housing Local & Regional Engagement Strategy brochure](#) (cat. no. 2911.0.55.001).

UPCOMING FREE SEMINARS

Our seminar program, formerly known as the Tasmanian CUPS (Community of Users and Producers of Statistics) seminars, is free and well-attended.

Two seminars coming up in the next few months are:

- **Innovation Measurement** - Anthony Arundel will talk about the Tasmanian Innovation Census project and recent national and international developments in innovation measurement and statistics.
Date: 2 July 2009
Time: 10am-11am
Venue: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 200 Collins St, Hobart

- **The LIST** - Stephen Godfrey will talk about the LIST (Land Information System Tasmania): a whole of government service that delivers integrated land information online.
Date: November 2009
Further details, including time and venue, to be advised closer to the date.

If you wish to attend or would like more information please email:
tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au.

UPCOMING TRAINING: TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION

Overview: Develops skills in interpreting and analysing data and communicating information clearly and effectively. Analytical thinking enables data to be transformed into meaningful information. Relevant messages are extracted to meet objectives. Understanding the issue, analysis tools and techniques, clearly presenting conclusions.

Format: 2 day workshop

Who should attend: People working with data who wish to extract relevant information and communicate that information to a variety of audiences, e.g. through written reports.

Course Outcomes: Understanding how the collection and compilation of data affect its usefulness, quality and relevance. Ability to draw conclusions from the analysis, to communicate results effectively, and to present tables and graphs. Recognise possible pitfalls in analysis

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Date: 22 & 23 July 2009

Venue: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 200 Collins Street, Hobart

If you wish to enrol or want more information please email: tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au.



NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY - TASMANIAN RESULTS

The National Health Survey of 2007-08 examines key health issues in Australia. Below we report on the Tasmanian results for key health risk factors: obesity, alcohol consumption, and smoking.

Overweight or Obese

Using the Body Mass Index (BMI) approach, the ABS found that 65.6% of adult males and 62.4% of adult females were overweight or obese in Tasmania.

When looking at the age pattern of overweight or obese persons aged 18 years and over,

the highest proportions in Tasmania were in the older age groups of 65+ years for both males and females, 78.0% and 73.3% respectively.

Alcohol consumption

In Tasmania, approximately 19.0% of males aged 15 years and over, and 29.1% of females aged 15 years and over, reported that they consumed alcohol one week to less than 12 months prior to the survey.

In the week prior to the survey, approximately 4.7% of people aged 15 years and over consumed alcohol at a level, which if continued, would place them at significantly increased health risk. This is a slightly lower than the national result of 5.2%.

When looking at the age pattern of high risk drinking, the highest proportion for males (9.2%) and females (9.8%) was reported for those aged 25-34 years.

In Tasmania, of persons aged 15-17 years, approximately 27.2% of males and 41.0% of females had consumed alcohol one week to less than 12 months prior to the survey. This is the first time the National Health Survey has focussed on children's alcohol consumption.

Smoking

In 2007-08, 23.9% of Tasmanians reported that they were current smokers. More males than females were current smokers (25.1% and 22.8% respectively). The proportion of smokers was highest in the 25-34 years age group for males (37.9%) and in the 18-24 years age group for females (42.0%).

Children aged 15-17 were asked the smoking questions for the first time in the 2007-08 survey. In Tasmania, 6.5% of males in this age group were current smokers, while 12.1% of females in this age group were current smokers.

A national summary of the results for these three key health risk factors, along with further details are available from [National Health Survey: Summary of Results, Australia 2007-08](#) (cat. no. 4364.0). For further information at the state and territory level, see [National Health Survey: Summary of Results; State Tables](#) (cat. no. 4362.0).

ABS DATA QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The [ABS Data Quality Framework](#) (cat. no. 1520.0) was released 4 May, 2009. This framework provides the standards for assessing and reporting on the quality of statistical information. It is a tool which improves a user's ability to:

- decide whether a dataset or statistical product is fit for purpose (which in turn helps to identify data gaps);
- assess the data quality of seemingly similar collections; and
- interpret data.

It can also assist those developing statistical collections to produce high quality outputs.

The ABS Data Quality Framework is designed for use by a range of data users and providers in different settings, including government agencies, statistical agencies and independent research agencies. For example, the ABS Data Quality Framework will be used to assess the quality of performance indicator data linked to a number of National

Agreements in key policy areas signed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in late 2008.

For more information about the ABS Data Quality Framework, please contact the Methodology and Data Management Division, ABS (Canberra) by email: methodology@abs.gov.au or by telephone via the ABS National Information and Referral Service on: 1300 135 070.

How Can We Help



HOW CAN WE HELP

ARE YOU STATISTICALLY LITERATE?

In today's information-rich society, we encounter statistical information on a daily basis, ranging from unemployment rates, retail figures and cancer rates, to football ladders and cricket scores. Statistics tell interesting stories and enable us to make sense of the world. Statistics are essential for research, planning and decision-making purposes.

While it may be the issues rather than the statistics that grab people's attention, it should be recognised that it is the statistics that inform the issues. Being statistically literate means being equipped/having the ability to accurately understand, interpret and evaluate the data that inform these issues.

A lack of statistical literacy can result in misunderstandings and misrepresentation of data which can lead not only to erroneous conclusions, but a mistrust of statistics themselves.

If you are uncomfortable with using statistics, you are not alone. Many people shy away from using statistics because of their perceived complexity. People may:

- not know where to look to find the information they need;
- be unfamiliar with the terminology; and/or
- lack confidence in their ability to make sense of the numbers.

You do not have to be an expert at maths to work with statistics!

Numeracy implies a basic competence in mathematics, a basic understanding of numbers and figures. It is certainly a prerequisite to being statistically literate, but statistical literacy is not about being adept at formulating or understanding the methodology behind the numbers. Statistical literacy requires a basic understanding of statistical concepts and is the ability to interpret the numbers and express that understanding in words.

Statistics may be presented in different ways, including tables, graphs, maps or text, or through numbers and symbols; they are not scary or boring if you know what they mean. For someone to be considered statistically literate, they need to be comfortable and competent with all of these forms.

There are several concepts that recur throughout the literature on statistical literacy. These fall into four key areas and can be considered in a practical manner as 'criteria' on which to base statistical literacy:

- Data Awareness
- The ability to understand statistical concepts
- The ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
- The ability to communicate statistical information and understandings

In upcoming issues of Tasmanian Statistical News we will discuss these concepts in more detail. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about statistical literacy and its relevance to you, check out the article: What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate? as featured in Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1307.6).

GENERAL STATISTICAL ENQUIRIES

We can help you to make a more informed decision...

Our consultants are available to discuss your information needs, and assist you to obtain the data which will best meet your requirements.

A range of published data is available free of charge on our website and more detailed data can be tailored to your requirements as part of our priced information consultancy service. Contact our consultants who will discuss your needs in detail and provide you with an obligation free quote.

Phone: 1300 135 070 (between 8.30am-5.00pm EST)

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

Fax: 1300 135 211

Post: Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, 2001

[Online Enquiry Form](#)

To find out more about how we can customise data tailored to meet your needs check out our Information Consultancy Services brochure online.

STATISTICAL TRAINING

Our training programs are conducted by ABS staff with expertise in designing questionnaires, analysing data and managing the survey process. The courses teach practical skills by involving participants in individual and group exercises. In addition, courses can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your organisation. We also hold regular seminars which may focus on statistical developments, publications, trends or issues.

Recent Releases



RECENT RELEASES

17/03/2009 [A Directory of Education and Training Statistics, Sep 08](#) (cat. no. 1136.0)

A directory of statistics, related directly or indirectly to education and training in Australia. It provides descriptive information on various data sources, data items available, frequency of collections, publications produced, and access to information. It includes information about education costs and expenditures, childcare and preschool education, primary and secondary school education, vocational education and training, higher education, Indigenous education and training, other statistical or research reports on education and training, and on classifications and manuals for Australian education and training statistics.

20/03/2009 [Microdata: National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Basic and Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files, 2007](#) (cat. no. 4326.0.30.001)

Microdata from the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing is available in the form of a Basic Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) and an Expanded CURF. The CURFs contain confidentialised data about each selected person and the household to which they belong. Data is also available based on diagnosis, mental health condition, and consultations for mental health (service use).

20/03/2009 [Sport and Social Capital, 2006](#) (cat. no. 4917.0)

This report aims to examine the relationship between participation in sport and physical recreation and social wellbeing using a range of indicators from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2006 General Social Survey.

26/03/2009 [Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2007-08](#) (cat. no. 5368.0.55.006)

This publication provides an analysis of the number and characteristics of Australia's exporters. Estimates on exporters of merchandise trade are compiled from data sourced from the Australian Customs Service (Customs) and from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Australian Business Register. Estimates on exporters of services are compiled largely from the ABS Survey of International Trade in Services (SITS). Several data sets are classified by state and territory.

31/03/2009 [Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia, May 2006](#) (cat. no. 6306.0.55.001)

This Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) provides information from the May 2006 Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours. The survey is designed to provide statistics on the composition and distribution of earnings and hours of employees and whether their pay is set by award, collective agreement or individual agreement. Distribution and composition of average weekly earnings and hours of employees is classified by sex, adult/junior, full-time/part-time, managerial/non-managerial, state/territory, sector (private/public), employer unit size and composition of earnings and hours paid for. Methods of setting pay data are also available by jurisdiction.

07/04/2009 [Early Childhood learning and care - data sources, gaps and opportunities, 2008](#)

(cat. no. 4105.0.55.001)

This information paper reports on a data mapping pilot project undertaken by the ABS (in collaboration with several other agencies) with the aim of improving the evidence base on early childhood. The project investigates the existing range of data sources relevant to identified high priority policy questions in the area of early childhood care and education. It ascertains how these data sources relate to the key information requirements, where gaps exist and what access arrangements are in place. Recommendations are made for improving the evidence base for policy development and evaluation through better access to existing information or the creation of new information from existing data sources.

01/05/2009 Locations of Work, November 2008 (cat. no. 6275.0)

Provides information about people aged 15 years and over and the types of places they work, with particular focus on people who usually worked more hours at home than elsewhere in their main or second job or business. Further details about people employed at home include occupation, industry, computer and internet usage, reasons for working at home and time in job at home. Estimates can be classified by demographics such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth, as well as labour force characteristics.

18/05/2009 Conceptual Framework for Family and Domestic Violence, 2009 (cat. no. 4529.0)

Contains a conceptual framework for data relating to family and domestic violence. The framework illustrates relationships between the key elements of family and domestic violence, such as: context, risk, incident, responses, impacts/outcomes, and programs, research and evaluation.

22/05/2009 Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 7121.0)

Provides final estimates for major agriculture outputs and activity. Contains tables and broad commentary on agriculture industry structure, area and production of crops and livestock numbers. Additional datacubes will be released at a later date. Data are available for states and territories, at the Statistical Division level, and at the Natural Resource Management level.

25/05/2009 Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2001-02 to 2005-06 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002)

This release contains data cubes (excel spreadsheets) containing estimates of the sources and amount of personal income people received for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06, for Statistical Local Areas and other geographies (Local Government Areas, Statistical Sub-Division, Statistical Division, states and territories and Australia).

26/05/2009 Water Use on Australian Farms, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4618.0)

Information on irrigation practices on Australian farms was first collected in the Water Survey Agriculture 2002-03 and since then has been part of the annual Agricultural Survey or Census. Included in this issue are data on the type and area of crops irrigated and the volume of water applied. Data are available for each state/territory, Natural Resource Management regions and the Murray Darling Basin. Some previous estimates are included for 2002-03 to 2006-07. Additional datacubes will be released at a later date as necessary.

29/05/2009 Land Management and Farming in Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4627.0)

This product provides important information on a variety of management practices being adopted by Australian agricultural businesses, including cropping and pasture management, soil management, fertiliser use, surface water and effluent management, natural environment conservation protection and farm management. Also presented are data on the types of adverse seasonal conditions experienced in 2007-08, and the farm management responses found effective in dealing with these adverse seasonal conditions. Data are presented at the Australian, state and regional (Natural Resource Management region) levels. Additional datacubes will be released at a later date as necessary.

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Disclaimer

Please note that the ABS has implemented a handheld stylesheet that removes images.

This enables us to provide you fast loading pages while on a handheld device. Please note that as a result, some graphs and other images may be removed and to see the full statistical product you should visit the full version of the ABS website.

About this Release

Tasmanian Statistical News is a quarterly electronic newsletter providing information about new developments including projects, surveys, outposted ABS officers, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

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